

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A damper, in particular for motor vehicles, comprising a cylinder adapted to contain a hydraulic fluid, a main piston actuated by a stem defining in the cylinder a first chamber and a second chamber, said second chamber containing the stem, a hydraulic fluid reservoir and a valve placed in the hydraulic fluid flow between the first chamber and the second chamber, said valve comprising a movable valve element cooperating with a seat and means designed to press the valve element onto its seat, filtering means being mounted in parallel with the valve, adapted to generate a filtering control pressure acting on the valve element of the valve, the control pressure depending on the pressure differential at an inlet and at an outlet of the valve, said ~~the~~ filtering means comprising a balancing chamber divided into two parts by a movable piston, said movable piston being subjected to the action of a balancing spring means, and wherein, the two parts of the balancing chamber are respectively linked by pipes, on the one hand to the inlet of the valve, itself linked to the first chamber of the cylinder and on the other hand to the outlet of the valve, itself linked to the second chamber of the cylinder and to the reservoir, and said

filtering means further comprises a filtering restriction mounted in the pipe linking one of the parts of the balancing chamber to the valve; a filtering pipe also linking said part of the balancing chamber to the valve in order to apply the filtering control pressure prevailing in said part of the balancing chamber to the movable valve element of the valve.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, wherein, the movable valve element of the valve is subject to a closing force designed to press the valve element on its seat.

4. (previously presented) The damper as claimed in claim 3, wherein, the closing force is generated by a spring.

5-6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A damper, in particular for motor vehicles, comprising a cylinder containing a hydraulic fluid, a main piston actuated by a stem defining in the cylinder a first chamber and a second chamber, said second chamber containing the stem, a hydraulic fluid reservoir and a valve placed in the hydraulic fluid flow between the first chamber and

the second chamber, said valve comprising a movable valve element cooperating with a seat and means designed to press the valve element onto its seat, filtering means mounted in parallel with the valve, adapted to generate a filtering control pressure acting on the valve element of the valve, the control pressure depending on the pressure differential at an inlet and at an outlet of the valve, wherein,

the valve comprises a control chamber linked at the inlet, adjacent the seat of the movable valve element, to the first chamber of the cylinder, linked at the outlet to the second chamber of the cylinder and ~~also receiving the filtering pressure,~~

the movable valve element comprises a valve element head capable of cooperating with the seat, a valve element stem and a valve element piston integral with the stem at the opposite end from the valve element head, and

a regulation cylinder is housed inside the control chamber and defines a closed first regulation chamber, inside which the valve element piston slides, said regulation chamber receiving the filtering pressure.

8. (previously presented) The damper as claimed in claim 7, wherein, the regulation cylinder defines a closed second regulation chamber containing the valve element stem.

9. (previously presented) The damper as claimed in claim 8, wherein, the valve element stem has a through passage connecting the seat of the valve element with one of the regulation chambers.

10. (currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim 7, wherein, ~~the~~ a filtering restriction is mounted in ~~the~~ a pipe linking that part of ~~the~~ a balancing chamber linked to the inlet of the valve and to the first chamber of the cylinder and ~~the~~ a filtering pipe is linked to the first regulation chamber.

11. (currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim 8, wherein, ~~the~~ a filtering restriction is mounted in ~~the~~ a pipe linking that part of ~~the~~ a balancing chamber linked to the outlet of the valve and to the second chamber of the cylinder and ~~the~~ a balancing pipe is linked to the second regulation chamber.

12. (previously presented) The damper as claimed in claim 9, wherein, the through passage connects the seat of the valve element with the first regulation chamber and the regulation cylinder defines a third and a fourth regulation chamber containing the valve element stem, the valve element comprising an auxiliary piston separating said third and fourth regulation chambers.

13. (previously presented) The damper as claimed in claim 9, wherein, the through passage connects the seat of the valve element with the first regulation chamber and the regulation cylinder defines a third and a fourth regulation chamber containing the valve element stem, a sleeve forming an auxiliary piston being mounted so as to slide along the stem of the valve element, said auxiliary piston separating said third and fourth regulation chambers, the sliding sleeve pressing on the valve element head through the intermediary of a spring link.

14. (currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim 12, wherein, said third and fourth regulation chambers are subject respectively to the pressure downstream and upstream of ~~the~~ a restriction mounted on ~~the~~ an outlet pipe of the valve.

15. (previously presented) The damper as claimed in claim 12, wherein, the stem comprises a shoulder in the third regulation chamber.

16. (currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim 15, wherein, said third and fourth regulation chambers are respectively subject to the pressure downstream of ~~the~~ a restriction mounted on ~~the~~ an outlet pipe of the valve toward the second chamber of the cylinder and to the pressure downstream of

a restriction mounted on ~~the~~ an outlet pipe of the valve toward the reservoir.

17. (currently amended) The damper as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, wherein, the movable valve element of the valve is subject to a closing force designed to press the valve element on its seat.

18-19. (cancelled)